

# **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

**AVERY LANDING NON-TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL  
AVERY, IDAHO**

**JANUARY 2010**



**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA)  
SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS COMMITTED  
TO PROMOTING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AGENCY.

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT.

EPA'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
AVERY LANDING NON-TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL  
ARE DESIGNED TO

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT MAY AFFECT THEM,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE CLEANUP ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO REMEDY THESE ISSUES, AND

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE CLEANUP ACTIONS

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## **1.0 Overview of the Community Involvement Plan**

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Avery Landing Site and EPA and to encourage community involvement in site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses Avery Landing's relationship to the community and EPA (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents EPA's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files.

## **2.0 Capsule Site Description**

### **2.1 Site History**

The Site was used as a switching and maintenance facility for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad (CMSPR) from 1907 to 1977. Activities performed by the railroad at the facility included maintenance, refueling, and cleaning. On-site structures included a switchyard with train roundhouse and turntable, engine houses, and railroad maintenance and machine shops. As a refueling station, fuel oil was stored on-site, including the use of a 500,000-gallon above ground fuel oil tank.

Today, there is little remaining at the site to indicate its previous use, except concrete foundation slabs and remnants of rail lines. The eastern portion of the site is owned by Mr. Larry Bentcik, and is used on a seasonal basis. The western portion of the site is owned by Potlatch Forest Products Corporation (Potlatch). Potlatch performed leveling and grading of the site and reportedly used the area for temporary log storage. Potlatch also leased portions of the site to third parties for a variety of uses including log storage, parking, and trailer sites.

### **2.2 Site Description/Location**

The Site is located in the St. Joe River valley in the Bitterroot Mountains in northern Idaho, one mile west of the town of Avery, Shoshone County, Idaho. The Site is located directly adjacent to the St. Joe River to the south and Highway 50 to the north, at latitude 47°13'57" North and longitude 115°43'40" West. The St. Joe River is designated a special resource water that is used for wild life habitat, recreation, and as drinking water for downstream residents. According to the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) 58.01.02.110.11, the segment of the St. Joe River adjacent to the Site that could be impacted by contaminants found at the Site has the following designations: special resource water, domestic water supply, primary contact recreation, cold water communities, and salmonoid spawning. The Site is located in a narrow and remote river valley, and the immediate area around the Site is residential, recreational, and commercial.



## 2.3 Previous Cleanup Actions and Investigations

The earliest known release of petroleum product associated with railroad operations into the St. Joe River was reported in 1970, and observations of free petroleum product entering the river have continued through 2009.

Two prior cleanup actions have been conducted at the site. A free product recovery system was operated by Potlatch from 1994 through 2000, and recovery of 1,290 gallons of petroleum from groundwater was reported for this period. In 2000, Potlatch installed a containment wall and collections wells to prevent free product from flowing into the St. Joe River and a series of product extraction wells were installed at the Site.

The site has been under investigation since the late 1980s. Most recently, EPA conducted a removal assessment at the Site during April 2007. During this investigation, petroleum product was observed floating on groundwater in monitoring and recovery wells, and sampling confirmed that contamination was also present in subsurface soils and groundwater, and free product was also observed seeping into the St. Joe River along approximately 200 feet of river bank.

In August 2008, the EPA entered into an agreement with Potlatch to perform an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Biological Assessment (BA) and a Cultural Resources Evaluation (CRE) for site. The EE/CA will evaluate environmental data, present alternatives for cleaning up the contamination, and recommend a preferred cleanup alternative. The BA will evaluate how any cleanup action will affect threatened or endangered species, such as bull trout, and critical habitat. The CRE will evaluate and document any railroad remnants of historic importance.

During the summer and fall of 2009, Potlatch conducted an investigation to gather additional soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater data to better understand the nature and extent of contamination and to provide a framework for preparation of a draft EE/CA report.

The variopous investigations demonstrate that the elevated concentrations of hazardous substances and total petroleum hydrocarbons indicate that air (inhalation), direct contact (dermal), and soil (ingestion)

human exposure pathways exist. Nearby residents, recreationists, and/or trespassers could be exposed to the contaminants. The potential for exposure is elevated further because Site access is unrestricted and limited vegetative cover may result in the redistribution of contaminants throughout the surrounding environment. Moreover, there exists Site-related chronic petroleum product releases to the St. Joe River and shoreline.

Ecological receptors, including avian, mammalian, and plant receptors, could become exposed to elevated site contaminants and petroleum product found in soils through direct contact with the contaminated materials and with water and sediments contaminated by the materials; ingestion of soils, water, and sediments contaminated by the materials; and ingestion of contaminated food (e.g., sediment- or soil-dwelling insects, vegetation).

Next steps:

- Draft EE/CA Report will be released for public review and comment
- Following public comment, EPA will select a final cleanup alternative for site contamination
- EPA will negotiate an administrative order with Potlatch for conduct of the cleanup action
- Planning for and conduct of the selected cleanup alternative

### **3.0 Community Background**

#### **3.1 Community Profile**

Avery is a small unincorporated town set in the St. Joe River Valley in Shoshone County, Idaho. Avery is located in the middle of the St. Joe District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Avery is a popular tourist attraction in northern Idaho for its beautiful wilderness and outdoor recreation. Common activities include camping, hunting, ATV riding, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, and rafting. Avery has a population of about 57 permanent residents. The temporary population is much higher in the summer though due to seasonal workers for the United States Forest Service and the many summer homes in Avery and along the St. Joe River.

#### **3.2 History of Community Involvement**

On Monday, April 16, 2007, Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator made a visit to Avery and spoke with twelve people in the following locations:

- Avery Post Office
- Avery Gift ShopSheffy's General Store and Motel
- The Avery Trading Post
- Idaho Fly Fishing Company Store
- Avery School District #394 (K-8)
- Swiftwater Motel & RV Park
- US Forest Service, St. Joe Ranger District
- 

On November 18th, Jeff Philip, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator conducted community interviews with six residents in the Avery Trading Post.

### 3.3 Key Community Concerns

The community members we spoke with are very concerned about the economy. They wondered what was going on at the site from a curiosity perspective, but did not express concern about it. They were interested in any jobs created by the cleanup.

### 3.4 Response to Community Concerns

EPA will encourage the entity that conducts the cleanup to hire locally and use local resources.

### 3.5 Summary of Communication Needs

Fact sheets at major milestones, such as when the EE/CA is drafted and again when finalized, announcement about public comment opportunity on EE/CA.

## 4.0 EPA's Community Involvement Program

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the EPA and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews described earlier; it addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

### 4.1 The Plan

Information will be distributed in the following ways:

- An **Information Repository** will be set up in the EPA Region 10 Seattle office and at the Avery Community Center/Library.
- **Internet:** site summaries and relevant documents will be posted at [http://www.epaosc.org/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=2897](http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=2897).
- **Fact sheets** will be mailed to all residents and businesses in the Avery mailing Zip code.

Opportunities for community input:

- Caryn Sengupta, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), is available to speak with community members. She will work closely with Earl Liverman, EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for the site. Their contact information is in Appendix A.
- Once the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is prepared, a formal comment period will be announced in a local publication and/or mailed out to residents. The announcement will include particulars on duration, how to make comments, where to submit comments, etc.
- After the formal comment period, EPA will summarize the comments received and document how we have considered those comments during the decision-making process. Responses to major comments will be prepared.

- This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will be revised as community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the site or the cleanup action that are not currently addressed arise.

#### 4.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)	Complete
Establish a mailing list for the Site	Complete
Establish Information Repository	Complete
Establish Administrative Record	Complete
Announce Public Comment Period for the EE/CA	Complete
Respond to comments on EE/CA	Complete
Post EE/CA on website	Complete
Distribute fact sheet explaining removal action	Complete
Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP)	As needed

#### Appendix A: EPA Regional Contacts

Earl Liverman  
Federal On Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
Tel: 208.664.4858  
Fax: 208.664.5829  
E-mail: liverman.earl@epa.gov

Caryn Sengupta  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Tel: 206.553.1275  
Fax: 206.553.2955  
E-mail: sengupta.caryn@epa.gov

#### Appendix B: Local, State, & Federal Officials

Superintendent's Office Avery School District 394:  
370 Old River Rd, Avery - (208) 245-2479

Postmaster General: 10 Depot Road, Avery - (208) 245-3557

Governor: C.L. "Butch" Otter

Federal Senators: Mike Crapo & James E. Risch



Representatives: Walt Minnick (ID 1st District)

Idaho DEQ: Toni Hardesty

### **Appendix C: Media Contacts**

#### **Newspapers:**

St. Maries Gazette Record

Shoshone News Press - Kellogg, ID [www.shoshonenewspress.com](http://www.shoshonenewspress.com)

### **Appendix D: Repository Locations**

#### **Local Repository:**

Avery Community Center/Library  
10 Depot Road  
Avery, ID 83802  
208.245.3557

#### **EPA Region 10 Repository:**

EPA Region 10 Records Center  
1200 6th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Tel: 206.553.4494  
Hours Open to Public:  
Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
(closed on weekends and Federal holidays)